

Week Ending Friday, August 5, 2005

**Statement on Congressional Action
on Highway Legislation**

July 29, 2005

I congratulate the Congress for completing a highway bill that will improve highway safety, modernize our roads, reduce traffic congestion, and create jobs. I am pleased that Congress met these objectives in a fiscally responsible way and without raising gas taxes. This important legislation will help provide the funding needed to carry out overdue work on critical highway and transportation projects, and it will strengthen and modernize the transportation networks vital to America's continued economic growth. I look forward to signing it into law.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

July 30, 2005

Good morning. This year Congress and I have addressed many key priorities of the American people, and we're making great progress.

At the start of the year, I urged Congress to ease the burden of junk lawsuits on American workers, businesses, and families, so Congress passed, and I signed bipartisan class-action reform. We called for restoring integrity to the bankruptcy process, so Congress passed, and I signed commonsense reform of our Nation's bankruptcy laws. I requested vital funds for our men and women in uniform, so Congress passed, and I proudly signed critical legislation to give our troops the resources they need to fight and win the war on terror.

This past week has brought even more progress, with four major achievements. First, I signed into law a patient safety bill that will improve our health care system by reducing medical errors. Second, Congress

came to an agreement on a highway bill that will improve safety, modernize our roads and bridges, and create jobs. Third, Congress passed the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement. This historic agreement will reduce barriers to American goods, services, and crops, and make our Nation more secure by strengthening the young democracies in our neighborhood.

Finally, after years of debate, Republicans and Democrats in Congress came together to pass a comprehensive energy plan that will reduce America's dependence on foreign sources of energy. This bill will encourage conservation and efficiency, increase domestic production, promote alternative and renewable resources, and modernize the electricity grid. I thank the Members of Congress who worked so hard on this vital legislation, and I look forward to signing it into law.

As Members of Congress return home for their August recess, I plan to travel to seven States around the country. I will talk to Americans about our growing economy. Thanks to the tax relief we passed and the spending restraint, our economy today is growing faster than any other major industrialized country. The unemployment rate is down to 5 percent, lower than the average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. We created more than 2 million jobs in the past 12 months. More Americans are working today than ever before in our Nation's history.

The 2005 deficit is projected to be \$94 billion less than previously expected, and we're now ahead of the pace needed to meet my goal of cutting the deficit in half by 2009.

We have more to do, and I will not be satisfied until every American who wants to work can find a job. I look forward to talking to the American people about our plans to continue strengthening the economic security of America's seniors and working families.

During August, I will also meet with our troops and their families and update the